

PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair, Budget & Finance Committee, on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 1:35 p.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Historic County Building, Lihue, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Mason K. Chock  
Honorable Gary L. Hooser  
Honorable Ross Kagawa  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro  
Honorable KipuKai Kualii  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Mel Rapozo

The Clerk read the notice of the public hearing on the following:

"Bill No. 2599 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. B-2015-796, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016, BY REVISING THE AMOUNTS ESTIMATED IN THE GENERAL FUND (*Kaua'i Fire Department, Aerial Apparatus Vehicle 10% County Match – \$71,909.00*),"

which was passed on first reading and ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua'i on October 7, 2015, and published in The Garden Island newspaper on October 14, 2015.

The hearing proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Do we have any registered speakers?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: Committee Chair, we have no registered speakers.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone in the audience wishing to testify? Mr. Bernabe.

MATTHEW BERNABE: Matt Bernabe for the record. Before I say anything, I would just like to say that I totally support what our Fire Department does. I think they actually do a really good job considering. I have disagreed with where their scope of jurisdiction has been. But on the other hand, I have also heard a lot of criticism on best practice and the legalities directly referring to the helicopter history.

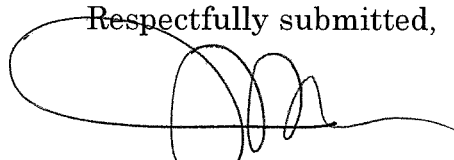
(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)

Mr. Bernabe: Personally, I have not ever really put my crosshairs on the issue, let us say. Were they covered with the audit when we did all of these County audits? I would like to state for the record that I am not sure. I do not know if they were. Okay, maybe they were not. If they were not, why not? We seem to give these people a lot of money, and it would behoove us to know what they are using it for, if they are using it correctly or if they are mismanaging the money, or whatever it is. Like I said, I do not know enough, but I see a red flag here. I have heard such things such as they are not even running a legal chopper. Most of this may be hearsay and whatnot, but like I said, how would I know? How would I be able to get this information? Would I be able to go to the Fire Chief and say, "Look, I have heard some rumors around town that some of your actions are not *pono*. Can I see your records? Are you going to open them up for me?" How can I see that? If I did see it, what could I do about it? As you see, I am not sitting here waving the finger because I do not even know enough, but at the same time, I would like to know more. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Anyone else in the audience wishing to testify on this?

There being no one further testimony, the public hearing adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by several loops and a trailing line.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk

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